# South Dakota Department of the Military South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs

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#### "HIRE VETERANS FIRST"

Gov. Dennis Daugaard declared November as "Hire Veterans First" month, issuing a proclamation asking South Dakotans to acknowledge the contributions veterans have made to the state and country.

"I encourage South Dakota business leaders, public officials, and the leaders of civic and fraternal organizations that have employment opportunities to hire veterans for those positions," said Gov. Daugaard. "Veterans make excellent employees."

The South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation (DLR) and the U.S. Department of Labor/Veterans' Employment Training Service continuously educate South Dakota businesses about the exceptional employment resources that veterans possess.

"Veterans have served our country well, and many have now made the transition to civilian life and are ready to take on new challenges," said State Labor and Regulation Secretary Pam Roberts. "They possess the necessary skills to accommodate many businesses and are ready to enter the workforce."

Veterans' employment representatives are located in 19 DLR local offices across the state. They provide employment services that help veterans transition into the civilian workforce.

To view an office directory and learn more about available programs, visit www.sdjobs.org



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# HOMELESS VETERANS SHELTER OPENS IN SIOUX FALLS

Volunteers of America recently opened a new shelter in Sioux Falls for homeless veterans. The official ribbon cutting ceremony will be held on Tuesday, November 8, at 11:30 am.

The new shelter, on the corner of Cliff Avenue and 14th Street, has everything they need to assist them in getting back on their feet—laundry facilities, showers, meals, computer access and personnel to assist them in securing their benefits.

With the VA's goal to end homelessness by 2015, this facility will aid in identifying the needs of South Dakota's homeless veterans.



# MCLAUGHLIN AND EAGLE BUTTE VETERANS STAND DOWNS

The VA Black Hills Health Care System will be hosting Veterans Stand Downs at McLaughlin and Eagle Butte November 9-10.

The Stand Down at McLaughlin will be held at City Hall on Wednesday, November 9, from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. The Eagle Butte Stand Down will be held at the HVJ Cultural Center on Thursday, November 10, from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.

The Stand Downs afford veterans in this vicinity to meet with representatives from the VA Black

Hills, Veterans Benefits Administration, Tribal and County Veterans Service Officers and the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs regarding benefits, programs and services.

Basic health screenings, flu shots, a meal and a variety of personal care items will also be available.

For more information about the Stand Downs, contact Rodger Woeppel at (605) 745-2000 Ext. 9-2114.







# SD GUARD UNITS ALERTED FOR DEPLOYMENT

Three South Dakota Army National Guard units have been alerted for deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The 730th Area Support Medical Company of Vermillion, the 129th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment of Rapid City and Sioux Falls, and the 235th Military Police Company of Rapid City and Sioux Falls, have all received mobilization alert orders for deployment to Afghanistan in 2012 and 2013.

The 730th and its 75 assigned members are tentatively scheduled for deployment in July 2012. The mission of the 730th is to provide Echelon 1 (basic emergency medical services) and Echelon II (emergent or inpatient/outpatient care designed to return service members back to duty or evacuate them on to definitive care as quickly as possible) health support. They are composed of combat medics, lab technicians, radiologists, dental technicians, mental health technicians, medical doctors, nurses, physician's assistants and maintenance and support staff.

The 129th and its 20 members are tentatively scheduled for deployment in February 2013. The mission of the 129th is to provide public affairs support to units across the state, as well as to deployed units in support of a combined, unified or joint operation. This detachment uses print and broadcast journalists to help tell the story of the South Dakota National Guard. The unit's headquarters is located in Rapid City and a detachment in Sioux Falls.

The 235th and its 124 assigned members are tentatively scheduled for deployment in February 2013. The mission of the 235th is to provide security for U.S. military personnel, installation and facilities and to guard prisoners of war and civilian internees. The unit's headquarters is located in Rapid City and its detachment in Sioux Falls.

All three units are expected to report to an active-duty mobilization station at a time and location to be determined to complete all required training prior to deployment overseas.

### NATIVE AMERICAN EXHIBIT

In honor of National Native American Heritage month, the Department of Veterans Affairs, through the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) History Office, has created a special traveling exhibition entitled *Native American Heritage*. The exhibit highlights the contributions of Native Americans in the U.S. military and as Veterans.

Two local Native American students contributed to this exhibit. Mary Jo May, member of the Oglala Sioux tribe, and secondary education major at Black Hills State University provided research assistance for the Native American women's section. Artwork by Anthony Belgarde, member of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, and a design technology major at Bemidji State University is featured in the exhibit.

*Native American Heritage* will be on display for public viewing at the Hot Springs VA Medical Center, in Hot Springs, South Dakota, November 11th (Dom Auditorium before 11 am and after 1 pm) and 14th (Dining Room); and at the Fort Meade VA Medical Center in Fort Meade, South Dakota, November 16th and 17th, in the Credit Union corridor.

Contact Connie Moffitt at 605-745-2000 x2164 or Rosie Elmore at x2313 for further information.

### NFL PLAYERS JOIN EKNOWLEDGE HONORING VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES

In alliance with the Department of Defense and supported by Patriotic NFL players, eKnowledge is donating \$200 SAT and ACT PowerPrep™ Programs to Military Service Members and their extended families. As Veterans Day approaches, eKnowledge remembers and honors U.S. servicemen and women for their sacrifice and incredible contributions to our country. Over the past seven years, eKnowledge has donated over 165,000 PowerPrep™ programs with a value approaching \$39 million.

NFL Players stepped up BIG TIME this year supporting the eKnowledge Military Donation Program which now includes over 100 players from the NFL, MLB, Professional Tennis, and some of the largest not-for-profit organizations in the world, the US Military and other corporations.

The SAT and ACT PowerPrep™ software comes in a single DVD and includes more than 11 hours of Virtual Classroom instruction and 3,000 files of supplemental test prep material. Thousands of interactive diagnostic tools, sample questions, practice tests and graphic teaching illustrations are indexed for easy use. Students select the training they need and can study at their own pace.

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To place an order by telephone, please call: 951-256-4076



# CAMP RAPID UNVEILS THREE NEW BUILDINGS

The South Dakota Army National Guard held a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Camp Rapid, Thursday, Oct. 27, for three new state-of-the-art facilities, which will enhance training and readiness for

National Guard forces for years to come. The ceremony showcased three new buildings; the Joint Force Headquarters Readiness Center, Barracks and Education Building 802, and the Troop Medical Clinic addition/alteration.

Gov. Dennis Daugaard, Sen. Tim Johnson, as well as senior SDNG officials, and local government and civic leaders were on hand for the ceremony.

"The National Guard is no longer a strategic reserve, but an operational force, meeting the needs of today and ready to face the challenges of tomorrow, said Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, ad-



jutant general of the South Dakota National Guard. "The National Guard leaders here will attest – it is our job to make sure these troops have the best training facilities possible as we move forward," said Reisch, during the ceremony.

To help the National Guard move forward, the three new buildings combined provide the needed space for 404 workstations, an assembly hall, exercise rooms, classrooms and distance learning centers, kitchen and dining facility, company supply room and arms vault, auditorium, sleeping quarters for up to 600 troops, pharmacy, medical exam rooms and labs.

The new facilities are a part of South Dakota's plan to replace older, inadequate armories and sites, which will save in operating costs and provide areas for training to meet readiness objectives for state active-duty missions and overseas deployments. "What it's really done is allowed us to bring in all the various staff sections and directorates into one building," said Reisch. "It has fostered the communication necessary to run the National Guard." In addition to providing better training and readiness capabilities for service members, the state-of-the art facilities are also designed to

meet Leadership Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver criteria – making the buildings energy efficient and environmentally friendly.

The readiness center and barracks and education building include a geothermal heat exchanger for heating and cooling, automated temperature-control monitor, anti-terrorism/force protection measures, security fencing and site lighting, to name a few. All three buildings combined cost \$54.1 million, which makes this the largest construction project in Camp Rapid history. The planning process began in the late 1980's and became a reality when the ground was broken in May of 2009.



### WOMEN OF WAR PROJECT

W.O.W.

## The Women of War Project Grand Opening Ceremony On 11/11/11 At 11 am (MT)

### VETERANS DAY

10955 Water Tank Road Belle Fourche, SD 605.723.8672

#### www.womenofwarproject.com

Ceremony Highlights Include:

USAF B-1 Bomber Flyover (tentative)
Colors Presentation by Black Hills State ROTC
Salute to Women Vets by Girl Scouts Dakota Horizons
American Legion Post 164 Honor Guard
Keynote Speaker: Ret. Army Brig. Gen. Myrna Williamson
Belle Fourche Chamber of Commerce Ribbon Cutting
Light Refreshments

Please R.S.V.P. wow@communityvisn.org

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

November 8—Ribbon Cutting at Sioux Falls Homeless Shelter—11:30 am (Cliff and 14th)

November 9-BHHCS Veteran Stand Down-McLaughlin City Hall (10:00 am)

November 10- BHHCS Veterans Stand Down-Eagle Butte HVJ Cultural Center (10:00 am)

November 11—Grand Opening of Women of War Center

November 11—Veterans Day

November 17—SD Veterans Council Legislator Roundtable—Aberdeen

November 18—SD Veterans Council Legislator Roundtable—Chamberlain

November 19—SD Veterans Council Legislator Roundtable—Piedmont

November 24-25—State Offices Closed

December 2—SD Veterans Council Legislator Roundtable—Watertown

December 3—SD Veterans Council Legislator Roundtable—Sioux Falls

December 10—National Wreaths Across America Remembrance

December 26—State Offices Closed

January 2—State Offices Closed

We have attached a listing of Veterans Day activities and programs throughout the state that has been provided to us by veterans service officers.



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South Dakota Department of the Military

South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs

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